



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents

FROM: Alyson Luther, Coordinator of Response to Instruction (Rtl)

DATE: May 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Indiana's Response to Instruction (Rtl) Guidance Document, 2010

Response to Instruction (Rtl) in Indiana: A Foundational Shift

Over the past year, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has been working to develop its state implementation plan for *Response to Instruction (Rtl)*. The foundational component of the long-term plan included the development of the *Response to Instruction (Rtl) Guidance Document, 2010* which will be publically released through the IDOE Rtl Web site (www.doe.in.gov/rti) on May 25, 2010.

Goals for *Rtl* in Indiana include: implementing a pilot school initiative for the 2010-2011 school year, building state-wide capacity for effective implementation of *Rtl* through the utilization of initial pilot sites as demonstration sites for the 2011-2012 school year, providing technical assistance and job-embedded professional development to pilot schools, and providing web-based resources and tools for practical classroom and leadership application. The implementation process is being supported by two technical assistance providers: the National Center for Response to Intervention (NCRTI) and Great Lakes East Comprehension Center (GLECC). The IDOE's strong commitment to *Rtl* included the creation of an *Rtl* Coordinator position to work with the aforementioned technical assistance providers to coordinate and support *Rtl* efforts throughout the state.

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) views *Response to Instruction (Rtl)* as a means to provide the necessary support for all students to achieve their learning goals. For students struggling in a certain area, specific scientifically-based interventions aligned to core instruction, address learning difficulties in a differentiated manner in order to bridge achievement gaps. Students who are already proficient in an area may be provided with challenges that are differentiated for pace, content and complexity. *Rtl* in Indiana focuses on all students as they work to achieve their goals.

The Response to Instruction (Rtl) Guidance Document, (2010)

The foundation for *Rtl* in Indiana is rooted in the *Response to Instruction (Rtl) Guidance Document, (2010)* which, as stated above, will be available online at www.doe.in.gov/rti beginning Monday, May 25, 2010. The document outlines Indiana's philosophy and approach to *Rtl* which includes a shift from a focus on **intervention** to **instruction**. The IDOE and its external review team felt strongly that

the shift in focus from intervention to instruction emphasized the importance of teachers differentiating their instruction to meet the needs of all students. Stakeholders from across Indiana participated in a meeting and provided feedback and suggestions with respect to the draft form of the document. Based on the stakeholders' feedback, the initial draft was revised to reflect comments from the external team, and then reviewed and edited by the internal committee.

Response to Instruction (RtI) Pilot School Initiative

Implementing *RtI* with fidelity and ensuring the presence of essential components for effective differentiated instruction in classrooms across Indiana were the driving forces behind the *RtI* Pilot School Initiative. The IDOE has selected schools throughout the state to serve as pilot school sites for the 2010-2011 school year. As such, the schools will receive multiple forms of intensive and rigorous professional development and technical assistance during the initial pilot year and will then support further state-wide implementation by acting as demonstration sites for the 2011-2012 school year and beyond.

Additional Supports for Implementing Response to Instruction (RtI)

A toolkit composed of various materials, instructional aides and useful ideas for practical classroom and school level application is being generated by the IDOE in collaboration with its partners. The complete toolkit, which will become part of the IDOE *RtI* Web site will be launched this summer and will be continually updated to ensure practitioners have access to the most current and applicable materials. In addition to the IDOE *RtI* Web site, an *RtI* community will be established within the Learning Connection. The Learning Connection will be an additional resource to support educators across the state as they work to build their capacity to support *RtI* implementation.

We are extremely proud of Indiana's *Response to Instruction (RtI) Guidance Document, (2010)* and the support it provides to educators. The shift in focus from intervention to instruction has been paramount to the development of *RtI* and supports the foundational principles that are embedded within Indiana's vision for student achievement. If you have any questions regarding *RtI*, please contact Alyson Luther, *RtI* Coordinator at 317-232-0553 or via email at aluther@doe.in.gov.